REMARKS

New Claim 5 is directed to the activators of the present invention in which component A) is a secondary amine having at least one tertiary amino group. Support for this claim is found at page 2, line 15 of the specification and in Examples 1, 2 and 3.

New Claim 6 is directed to the activators of the present invention in which component C) has a number average molecular weight of from 62 to 750. Support for this claim is found at page 2, lines 20-21 of the specification.

New Claim 7 is directed to the activators of the present invention in which component A) corresponds to a specified formula. Support for this claim is found at page 8, line 20-page 9, line 4 of the specification.

Claim 4 has been amended to delete the second "is" appearing therein.

Claim 4 was objected to on the basis that the last use of the term "is" makes the claim read inappropriately and should be deleted.

Claim 4 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.

Withdrawal of this objection is therefore requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Free et al (U.S. Patent 6,136,878). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to the rejected claims and submit that newly added Claims 5-7 are also patentably distinct from the teachings of Free et al.

Free et al discloses very fine-celled polyurethane foams and processes for their production. In the disclosed process, an excess of a polyisocyanate blend is reacted with a polyether polyol. At least 65% of the isocyanate equivalents reacted with the polyol must be derived from MDI or polymeric MDI.

This reference is relied upon for its teaching of tertiary amine catalysts (such as triethanolamine) which when included in the polyisocyanate blend/polyether polyol reaction mixture are considered by the Patent Office to result in the activator being claimed by Applicants.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' activator is the reaction product of (1) a secondary amine or primary alcohol having at least one tertiary amino group; (2) a polyisocyanate of the diphenylmethane series having a functionality of from 2.5 to 4.0; and (3) an OH-functional reactive component capable of addition to isocyanate.

Free et al does not teach or suggest a reaction product of a secondary amine having at least one tertiary amine with a polyisocyanate of the MDI series having a functionality of from 2.5 to 4.0 and an OH-functional reactive component capable of addition to isocyanate.

Nor does Free et al teach or suggest use of a polyisocyanate of the diphenylmethane series having a functionality greater than 2.7.

Further, even when triethanolamine (specifically referred to in the Office Action) is used in the reference process, it is reacted with the isocyanate and polyol **in the presence of a blowing agent** and other additives to produce a **foam**.

Applicants' claimed activator is **not** a foam. This is readily apparent from the fact that the claimed activators are used to produce foams in Examples 7 and 8 of the specification.

Free et al does not disclose reaction products formed from the secondary amines required by new Claim 5, OH-functional compounds having a number average molecular weight of from 62 to 750 as required by new Claim 6, or a compound represented by the formula specified in new Claim 7.

Free et al does not therefore disclose Applicants' invention as claimed in rejected Claims 1-4 or new Claims 5-7 in the manner necessary to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks reconsideration of Claims 1-4 and allowance of Claims 1-7 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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